Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02145 250745Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /046 W

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R 221515Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8693

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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AS FAR AS EMBASSY COULD TELL, ANNIVERSARY OF SOVIET IN-VASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1968 PASSED WITHOUT INCIDENT. EMBASSY OFFICERS DID NOTICE MORE POLICEMEN ON THE TREETS THAN USUAL, AND INPARTICULAR WE NOTICED POLICE KEEPING PEOPLE MOVING IN VICINITY OF 1968 DEMONSTRATION SPOTS SUCH AS WENCESLAS SQUARE. ONE CZECH VISITOR SAID THAT HIGH MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO STICK AT THE OFFICE AUG 21. APPARENTLY WITH THE IDEA OF KEEPING UNNECESSARY PERSONS FROM BEING OUT ON THE STREETS. ON THE OTHER HAND, EMBASSY OFFICERS VISITING JAN PALAC'S FORMER GRAVESITE FOUND NOBODY PASSING BY. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE CZECHS TOOK THE DAY CALMLY, BUT THE REGIME IS STILL NERVOUS ENOUGH TO TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES. THE DAY WAS TYPIFIED BY AN EXPECTANT CZECHFATHER, WHOSE BABY IS LONG OVERDUE, WHO TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER HE WANTED THE BABY TO COME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR HIS WIFE'S SAKE, BUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 02145 250745Z

HE PRAYED IT DID NOT ARRIVE WITH A BIRTHDAY OF AUGUST 21.

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